

B O R O U G H   O F   T O T N E S



ANNUAL   REPORT  
OF   THE   HEALTH   OF   THE   DISTRICT  
FOR   THE   YEAR   1969

PRESENTED BY  
THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH AND CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR



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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT

FOR THE YEAR 1969

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Municipal Borough of Totnes

Annual Report on the Health of the District during 1969

P r e f a c e

To the Mayor, Aldermen, and Members of the Borough Council:-

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I present herewith the Annual Report on the Health of the District drawn up in accordance with Ministry of Health Circular 1/70 dated January, 1970. Included in the Report is the Report of your Chief Public Health Inspector.

The Standardised Birth Rate at 13.3 is lower than last year and below the National Average of 16.3 per thousand population. The Standardised Death rate at 10.9 is lower than last year and well below the National Average of 11.9 per thousand population.

The main causes of death, Heart and Circulatory disease, cancer and respiratory illnesses were much as before. There was one death due to a motor vehicle accident, and one suicide.

Very few infectious diseases occurred, especially measles, of which only 11 cases were reported. This may be due to the beneficial effects of measles vaccination which is now being carried out. One case of suspected food poisoning was investigated with negative results as were several cases of gastro-enteritis. These latter cases were thought to be due to a virus. One Totnes resident fell ill with a severe attack of gastro-enteritis in London, due to an unnamed salmonella organism labelled 4,12d. He remained a symptomless carrier of infection for several months afterwards and eventually left the area.

I wish to thank members of the Council and staff for their support during the year.

John Wildman  
Medical Officer of Health

July, 1970.



PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

The Chairman was Councillor Mrs. J. M. Gilbert and the Vice-Chairman was Councillor Mr. H. V. Eastman. Also on the Committee were the Mayor and eight other members of the Council.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

John Wildman, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. (Lond.)

DEPUTY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Mary E. Budding, M.B.B.Ch., B.Sc., D.P.H.

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

P. R. Bramley, M.A.P.H.I.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

A. M. Maycock, M.A.P.H.I.

MEAT INSPECTOR'S

R. W. Addington  
J. Greenwood

(Resigned January, 1969)  
(Commenced duties February, 1969)

CLERICAL ASSISTANT

Mrs. S. Bridges

LOCAL OFFICE

Municipal Offices,  
Fore Street,  
TOTNES.

Tel: No. Totnes 2109  
and Totnes 3350

M.O.H. CENTRAL OFFICE

Area No. 5, South West Devon, Tel: No. Plymouth 36644  
Public Health Department,  
Council Offices,  
8, Plymbridge Road,  
Plympton,  
PLYMOUTH. PL7 4LG.

M.O.H. CLERK

Miss G. Prowse

Tel: No. Plymouth 36644





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S e c t i o n   A

VITAL STATISTICS AND GENERAL STATISTICS 1969

Table 1

Figures for 1968 are shown in brackets

POPULATION

Estimated Mid-Year Population of Totnes Municipal Borough

5,640	(5,630)	
Natural increase or decrease	- 41	(- 51)
Migration in or out	+ 51	(+ 51)
Total increase or decrease	+ 10	(nil)
Population at 1961 Census		5,502

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area of Totnes Municipal Borough in Acres 1,421

Number of Inhabited Houses according to Rate Books on 1.4.69.

2,096	(2,074)	
Number of houses per acre	1.475	(1.460)
Number of persons per acre	3.971	(3.962)
Number of persons per house	2.691	(2.714)
Number of dwellings owned by the Council	606	(521)

Rateable Value of District

£222,603 (£218,336)

Sum represented by a penny rate

£895 (£859)



# S e c t i o n   A

## VITAL STATISTICS AND GENERAL STATISTICS 1969

Table 2

Figures for 1968 are shown in brackets.

### BIRTHS

<u>Standardised Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population</u>	13.3	(15.5)	
Area Comparability Factor for births	0.82	(1.19)	
<u>Number of Live Births</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Total	37	26	63
Legitimate	35	25	60
Illegitimate	2	1	3
<u>Number of Still Births</u>	0	0	0

### DEATHS

<u>Standardised Death Rate per 1,000 population</u>	10.9	(12.1)	
Area Comparability Factor for Deaths	0.59	(0.55)	
<u>Number of Deaths</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>All Ages</u> Total	42	62	104
<u>Death of Infants under 1 year</u>	0	1	1
Number under 4 weeks of age	0	0	0
Number under 1 week of age	0	0	0
<u>Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births</u>	16.0	(27.4)	

### COMPARISON WITH RATES FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

<u>Birth Rate</u>	16.3	(16.9)	<u>Death Rate</u>	11.9	(11.9)
<u>Infantile Mortality Rate</u>					
(Infants under 1 year of age)	18.0	(18.0)			



CAUSES OF DEATH 1969

<u>Cause of death</u>				<u>Sex</u>	<u>All Ages</u>
84	Enteritis and other Diarrhoeal diseases	..	..	M	-
				F	1
B19(1)	Malignant Neoplasm, Buccal Cavity etc.	..	..	M	1
				F	-
B19(3)	Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	..	..	M	3
				F	-
B19(4)	Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	..	..	M	-
				F	1
B19(5)	Malignant Neoplasm, Larynx	..	..	M	-
				F	1
B19(6)	Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	..	..	M	3
				F	-
B19(8)	Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	..	..	F	1
B19(11)	Other Malignant Neoplasms	..	..	M	2
				F	2
B46(1)	Other Endocrine Etc., diseases	..	..	M	1
				F	1
B27	Hypertensive disease	..	..	M	1
				F	-
B28	Ischaemic heart disease	..	..	M	8
				F	5
B29	Other forms of heart disease	..	..	M	1
				F	9
B30	Cerebrovascular disease	..	..	M	6
				F	9
B46(5)	Other diseases of circulatory system	..	..	M	-
				F	4
B32	Pneumonia .. ..	..	..	M	4
				F	4
B33(1)	Bronchitis and Emphysema	..	..	M	3
				F	-
B36	Intestinal obstruction and Hernia	..	..	M	-
				F	1
B37	Cirrhosis of Liver .. ..	..	..	M	1
				F	1
B39	Hyperplasia of prostate	..	..	M	2
B46(8)	Other diseases, Genito-Urinary system	..	..	M	1
				F	1
B46(10)	Diseases of musculo-skeletal system	..	..	M	-
				F	3
B43	Birth injury, difficult labour, etc.	..	..	M	-
				F	1
B45	Symptoms and ill defined conditions	..	..	M	4
				F	15
BE47	Motor vehicle accidents	..	..	M	1
				F	-
BE48	All other accidents .. ..	..	..	M	-
				F	1
BE49	Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	..	..	M	-
				F	1
<u>Total all causes</u>				<u>Male</u> 42	<u>Female</u> 62





## S e c t i o n   B

### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICE

#### 1. Hospitals

There are two hospitals in the town, The Totnes and District Hospital is a general practitioner hospital and has 24 beds. Broomborough Hospital has 135 beds for chronic cases. It has a maternity wing with 13 beds and cots; this unit serves a wide area outside the town.

#### 2. County Council Health Services

Under the National Health Service Act, the County Council provides the following services:-

Domiciliary midwives, home nurses, health visitors, supervisory care of expectant and nursing mothers and children under five, ambulance services, vaccination and immunisation procedures, home help services, and the care of persons suffering from illness or mental disorders, and the after care of such persons.

Two district nurse/midwives work in the district together with a health visitor and a nursing assistant. A child welfare clinic is held on the first, third and fifth Monday in the month at the Borough Park Clinic, and the health visitor for the area is in attendance. The home help service is provided by the County Council. A chiropody service has been made available for the handicapped, the aged, and expectant mothers. The ambulance service is operated by voluntary organisations. A "meals on wheels" service is provided by the W.R.V.S.

#### 3. Laboratory Services

Bacteriological examinations of pathological specimens and samples of milk, water, and ice cream, are carried out at the Public Health Laboratories at Exeter and Plymouth. The chemical analysis of water is undertaken by Public Analysts at Exeter.

#### 4. Home Help Service

The Home Help Organiser has an office at The Family Welfare Centre, Pomeroy House, Bridgetown, Totnes, telephone No. Totnes 2663. The demand for this service is ever increasing and provides essential domestic help in cases of maternity, sickness, convalescence, old age and infirmity. It is not free, but those unable to pay the full charges are assessed according to their means.





## S e c t i o n   C

### PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES:    Cases Notified During 1969

Table 1

<u>DISEASE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>Age            Group            in            Years</u>					
		<u>Under</u>			<u>Over</u>		
		1	1 -	5 -	15 -	25 -	65
Measles	11	1	6	2	1	1	0
Infective Jaundice	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
Tuberculosis (lungs)	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Tuberculosis (other)	1	0	0	0	0	0	1

Table II

<u>DISEASE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>Incidence    by    Quarters</u>			
		1st	2nd	3rd	4th
Measles	11	7	2	2	0
Infective Jaundice	1	0	0	0	1
Tuberculosis (lungs)	1	0	1	0	0
Tuberculosis (other)	1	0	0	1	0

### INTERNATIONAL VACCINATION CERTIFICATES

International certificates of vaccination were authenticated by the Public Health Department during the year of 1969 as follows:-

Smallpox        146	Cholera        31
---------------------	-------------------

### NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS 1948 and 1951

No action was necessary under these Acts for the compulsory removal of persons in need of care and attention. No burials took place under Section 50 of the 1948 Act.



## Report of Chief Public Health Inspector

With no changes in staff taking place during the year, greater attention was possible to the routine work of the Department.

Delivery was taken of a new refuse collection vehicle. This replaced two old side loaders, one of which was retained as a standby vehicle.

Rearrangement of the collection routes resulted in a saving in time and this made possible the introduction of bulk refuse collection service free to householders. It is hoped that this service will be widely used and assist towards improving the appearance of the town.

No serious infestations from rats, mice or insects were experienced during the year. Properties likely to infestation by rats receive regular inspection as do the sewerage systems.

Under the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 90 out of 119 registered premises received a general inspection during the year. 36 notices were served relating to 79 contraventions, largely of a minor nature.

113 food hygiene inspections were made as against 35 during 1968. As a result 21 informal notices were served in respect of 171 contraventions.

The general public gets less than it sees and whilst many food premises show a veneer of some kind of standard, more detailed inspection shows many instances of deficiencies or defects in facilities, equipment and the general condition of food rooms. When considering food contamination and food poisoning one sees many highly dubious practices which indicate a basic lack of awareness of the principles of food hygiene. The needs for general education in this sphere are very real indeed.

Meat inspection was, as always, a big drain on the resources of the Department.

A demand for increased productivity and thus speedier throughput brought dissatisfaction on the part of management with the speed at which meat inspection was being performed. It is unfortunate, to say the least, that the discussion was reduced to one of puerile accusations which achieved nothing more than a loss of goodwill.

Inspection, to be more than simply a gesture, which is what it is now becoming, requires time for its performance. A speed of throughput greatly in excess of 100 pigs per hour with but two inspectors on duty is detrimental to the service and not in the public interest. Both with this pressure and an increasing number of pigs presented the physical and mental effort involved is such that the time is rapidly approaching when the Council will need to consider the appointment of an additional inspector. A review of the scale of charges for meat inspection under the Meat Inspection Regulations 1963 would perhaps help.





The table showing incidence of disease emphasises the need for maintaining a high standard of inspection. Condemned meat is disposed of to a processor. The new Sterilization Regulations have been implemented and all condemned meat is now removed daily in locked containers and record kept of each consignment.

The general survey of older houses in the town, completed in 1969, showed 154 to be unfit for human habitation. Action had already been taken in respect of 80, of which 37 had been made fit, 13 were in the process of improvement and 30 subject of Orders or undertakings. The remaining unfit houses will be dealt with at the rate of about 12 per annum, leaving the programme to be completed in about six years.

The Housing Act 1969 appeared on the Statute Book in August. By the end of the year the provisions of the Act were not generally known and had evoked no great response from the public.

The policy of the Council for condemned properties to be retained, as far as possible, and ultimately improved, will be further strengthened by the introduction of a new principle of grant aided repairs associated with improvement.

Of the 75 complaints investigated only eighteen warranted the service of a written notice and with one exception related to the repair of property. The remainder were transient nuisances or grievances dealt with by way of verbal caution whenever appropriate.

No statistics are contained in this report on the work of Local Authority Housing Management. Whilst the number of Council houses in Totnes is relatively small, about 600 in all, the amount of work involved occupies some 50% of one Inspectors' time in addition to the necessary clerical duties.

P. R. Bramley  
Chief Public Health Inspector





S e c t i o n   D

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. WATER SUPPLIES

- (a) (i) Satisfactory in quality.  
(ii) Satisfactory in quantity.
- (b) Private supply to two dwellings unsatisfactory,  
new borehold sunk.
- (c) No. dwellings served:- (i) direct 2091  
(ii) standpipes 2  
Population served:- (i) direct 5628  
(ii) standpipes 5
- (d) Fluoride content - negligible.

2. REFUSE COLLECTION

- Weekly kerbside collection - 'Ramillies 25' vehicle  
driver and three men.
- Bulk collection - free on request to householders
- Trade refuse - collection weekly or twice weekly  
charge 10/-d. per bin (or equivalent)  
per six months.
- Disposal - crude tipping. Weekly levelling  
and covering with available material.  
No private disposal facilities.
- Other collections - £2. 10s. 0d. per hour.

3. SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL (Report of the Borough Engineer & Surveyor)

It is becoming increasingly difficult to maintain a standard of effluent within the temporary limits laid down by the Devon River Authority. The remedial scheme which was completed some two to three years ago has been reasonably effective but, of course, it was only intended as a short term measure and the system which is employed is becoming increasingly overloaded. In particular sludge retention and disposal is becoming quite a severe problem as this is having to be contained within the limits of the old site. Obviously all these factors combine to emphasise the urgent need for new sewage treatment works which is at present with the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, having been submitted in broad outline form.



4. PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT 1949

Properties Other Than Sewers

1. No. properties in district
2. (a) Total No. properties  
(including nearby premises)  
inspected following notification
- (b) No. infested by (i) rats  
(ii) mice
3. (a) Total No. properties  
inspected for rats and/or mice  
for reasons other than notification.
- (b) No. infested by (i) rats  
(ii) mice

Type of Property	
Non Agricultural	Agricultural
2801	11
47	-
42	-
5	-
177	11
34	-
-	-

4. Sewers None infested with rats during the year.

5. COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There is no common lodging house in the town.

6. OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

Class of premises	Premises newly Regd. during 1969	Total No. of Regd. premises at end of 1969	No. of premises receiving a general inspection during 1969
Offices	-	28	16
Retail Shops	-	81	68
Wholesale shops, warehouses	-	2	1
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	-	6	5
Fuel storage depots	-	2	-
TOTAL	-	119	90

No. of visits of all kinds (including general inspections) to registered premises:- 146





7. OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

Failure to display an Abstract of the Act	30
Unsatisfactory sanitary accommodation	7
Absence of supply of hot water	9
Insufficient means of space heating	4
Absence of thermometer	13
Absence of first aid materials	3
Absence of satisfactory water supply	2
Absence of satisfactory hand washing facilities	2
Inadequate lighting	2
Inadequate ventilation	2
Overcrowding	1
Defects of repair	4

8. PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS' VISITS AND INSPECTIONS

Housing Acts

Housing Inspections	193
Improvement Grants	249
Housing Management	343

Public Health Acts

Complaints and Nuisances	75
Disinfestations	5
Refuse Collection & Disposal	130
Water Sampling	19
Infectious Diseases	5

Food and Drugs Act

Unsound food and Food Complaints	12
Meat Inspection	314
Food Premises	113
Street Traders and Market Stalls	2
Food Poisoning	2

Inspections under the:

Caravan Sites & Control of Development Act	12
Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act	168
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act	15
Petroleum Regulations	15
Civic Amenities Act (Abandoned Vehicles)	19
Scrap Metal Dealers Act	1
Factories Act	13



9. INFORMAL NOTICES SERVED

Markets, Stalls & Delivery Vehicles Regs. 1960	3
Food Hygiene (General) Regs. 1960	26
Slaughterhouses (Hygiene) Regs. 1958	3
Slaughterhouses (Prevention of Cruelty) Regs. 1958	2
Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act 1963	36
Civic Amenities Act 1967	6
Public Health Act 1936	4
Public Health Act 1961	1
Petroleum Regs. 1928 and 1936	10
Housing Act 1957	13
Meat Inspection Regs. 1963	2
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949	1

FORMAL NOTICES SERVED

Public Health Act 1936	Sec. 93 (Abatement of Nuisances)	3
	Sec. 74 (Repair of Public Sewers)	1
Housing Act 1957	Sec. 9 (amended) (Repairs to property)	1

10. LICENCES AND REGISTRATIONS

Slaughtermen	19
Slaughterhouse	2
Petroleum Storage	10
Pet Animals	2
Animal Boarding Establishments	1
Scrap Metal Dealers	1
Storage & Sale of Ice Cream	36
Manufacture or sale of sausages etc.	9





# S e c t i o n   E

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

1. <u>TYPE OF FOOD PREMISE</u>	<u>NO.</u>
Grocery and general provisions	16
Butchers	8
Greengrocers	4
Fishmongers	1
Fried fish	2
Confectioners	10
Public Houses and hotels	16
Restaurants	16
Bakehouses	2
School and industrial canteens	3
Food Factories	4
Slaughterhouses	2

## 2.   INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

	Cattle excluding Cows	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Killed and Inspected	86	680	65,556
No. whole carcasses condemned (except T.B. and Cysticercosis)	-	1	316
Approx. weight of offal condemned (lbs.)	691	209	59,591
Approx. weight of carcass meat condemned (lbs.)	24	14	82,159
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	69	175	20,875
% affected with disease	80.2	20.5	31.8
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>			
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ condemned	-	-	1,473
% affected with disease	-	-	2.2
<u>Cysticercosis</u>			
No. of whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ condemned	2	4	-
% affected with disease	2.3	0.6	-



3. OTHER FOODS

During the year of 1969, the following food stuffs were found to be unfit for human consumption and voluntarily surrendered:

2631 lbs. tinned meats	40 lbs. tinned fruits
30 lbs. hindquarter beef	116 lbs. dairy products

4. MILK SUPPLIES - BRUCELLA ABORTUS

No work was undertaken in this connection.

5. POULTRY INSPECTION

No work of this kind was undertaken.

No. of poultry processing premises within the district - nil.



S e c t i o n   F

HOUSING

1. UNFIT HOUSES

Action taken in respect of Unfit Houses

No. of dwellings demolished	13
No. of unfit dwellings closed	5
No. of dwellings made fit after formal action	6
No. of persons displaced from unfit houses	13
No. of properties unfit and requiring action (approx.)	74

2. IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

<u>Improvement Grants</u>	(a)	No. of grants approved	12
	(b)	Amount of grant approved	£5241
	(c)	Amount of grant paid	£825
<u>Standard Grants</u>	(a)	No. of grants approved	5
	(b)	Amount of grant approved	£710
	(c)	Amount of grant paid	£240





A p p e n d i x a

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1969, FOR THE

BOROUGH OF TOTNES IN

THE COUNTY OF DEVON

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the

Factories Act 1961 Part I of the Act

Inspection for purposes of provisions as to health

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	
Factories in which Secs. 1,2,3,4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	-	-	-	-
Factories not included in (1) in which Sec. 7, is enforced by the Local Authority	49	13	-	-
Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	49	13	-	-



2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found:- Nil

No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted:- Nil

PART VII of the Act - Outwork

Section 133

Nature of work	No. of outworkers in August	No. of cases of default in sending list to Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists
nil	nil	nil	nil

Section 134

No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices Served	Prosecutions
nil	nil	nil





